

22. (Amended) The fusion protein of claim 21, wherein the linker is between five [to] and ten amino acids.

23 (Amended) The fusion protein of claim 18, wherein said second polypeptide is an antibody or [a] an antigen-binding fragment thereof.

24. (Amended) The fusion protein of claim 23, wherein said fusion protein is capable of forming a tetrameric complex similar to that of native streptavidin with a second, third, and fourth fusion protein, said second, third, and fourth fusion protein comprising at least a first and a second polypeptide joined end to end, wherein said first polypeptide comprises at least 129 amino acids of streptavidin, as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 [Figure 4], or functional variants, said variants comprising at least 90% amino acid identity with the native sequence thereof, wherein said variant retains the ability to bind biotin, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence differing by at least one residue from said first polypeptide.

26. (Amended) The fusion protein of claim 23, wherein the antibody is a single-chain Fv fragment [(scFv)].

32. (Amended) The fusion protein of claim 31, wherein the linker comprises at least four repeats of SEQ ID NO: 47 [Gly<sub>4</sub>Ser linkers].

33. (Amended) The fusion protein of claim 23, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof [is specific for] specifically binds a cell surface protein or a cell-associated stromal or matrix protein.

34. (Amended) The fusion protein of claim 33, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof is a [primatized] humanized antibody.